WIT A-LA-MODE.

OR,

PITHY QUESTIONS

TO PREVENT

DULNESS

IN

MODERN CONVERSATION.

Humbly Dedicated to all the
COXCOMBS in the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*.

By *JASPER QUIBBLE*, Eſq;
Doctor of *Nonſenſe* in *Covent-Garden*.

My Lines are dull; tho' they may chance to hit,
When they're enliven'd by my Reader's Wit.

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1608/5318.

TO

All the Coxcombs in the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*.

GENTLEMEN,

CONTRARY to the Rule of other Authors who begin their Dedications with a Catalogue of their Patrons Virtues, I ſet out with a Reſolution to tell you, and, if I can, reform your Follies, which I am ſure is the more honeſt Undertaking, and hope will prove the more uſeful.

DEDICATION.

Having often fallen, by Accident, into your Company (for I wou'd not have you ſo vain as to think I ſought it) I could not help taking notice of your great want of Underſtanding; nay even of common Converſation, which I think may be eaſily attain'd, it conſiſting at preſent of nothing but Queſtions that hardly require any Anſwer: But you really are ſo deficient of late, that eight or ten of you will ſit round a Table for ſix Hours together, and fill up the Time with nothing but Damnees, Curſes and Imprecations, to make your Hearers believe, the *No-Story* you have told---- Now, as I am a Well-wiſher to my Country, I would gladly baniſh Nonſenſe for ever from the Land, and make a Law, that no Perſon ſhou'd open his Mouth in Company, but thoſe who have ſomething to ſay that may be inſtructive to the reſt.---- But

as

as that is not in my Power, I have made an Attempt to reduce Nonſenſe to Method; that ſo even that Faſhionable Talent may require Study, and that Nonſenſe accented and deliver'd according to Rule may claim ſome Merit; by which Thouſands will come in for a Share of Praiſe, that hitherto have been looked upon with Pity by their Friends, and Contempt by their Enemies.

Pray, Gentlemen, is it not a moſt vexatious Calamity to hear a Fellow ſpeak for three Hours together, from no other Reaſon but the natural Motion of his Tongue, and Impertinence put even Folly out of Countenance? To prevent, therefore, all ſuch Monopolizers of vocal Abſurdities for the Future, I propoſe the following Rule, and hope all my ſtupid Friends and chattering Acquaintance will not think

it

it too ſevere an Injunction; eſpecially when all I propoſe is, that I may give *my ſelf* a reaſonable Anſwer, *viz.* Every Perſon who asks a Queſtion, of what Kind ſoever, ſhall be oblig'd to anſwer it that Day ſe'nnight himſelf, and becauſe I wou'd not impoſe Rules upon others, that I don't obſerve, I intend a Week hence to give a full and clear Anſwer to all thoſe in the following Sheets.

As to the Ladies, they being liable to Spleen, Vapours, and other affected, incurable Diſorders, I will not impoſe ſo much upon 'em, but give 'em free leave to ask what Queſtions they pleaſe, without any deſire of an Anſwer on their Side, provided they do not expect one from any other Perſon, except their Lovers; and that upon a Gallant's anſwering all the Queſtions they ſhall ask in a Month,

Month, he ſhall be immediately put into poſſeſſion of the Lady.

I alſo deſire, that no Perſon whatſoever ſhall delay giving an Anſwer to the following Queſtions, or confeſſing they cannot, till I ſhall publiſh my Reply; for my Predeceſſors in Conundrums have ſuffer'd greatly by this Practice, numbers of Readers having remain'd ſilent till the Anſwers were publiſh'd, and then with an Air of ridiculous Knowledge cry'd---- *Ay, I thought that wou'd be the Anſwer.*---- To prevent which, I inſiſt upon it, no Anſwer be look'd upon as a Mark of Genius, after mine are extant; nor that they ſhall not pretend to amend or alter any Replies; for if I once meet with that Indignity, I do here declare, to publiſh a Volume of Queries that no body can anſwer but my ſelf, which ſhall not be till the Year 1800, ſo

that

that all who pretend to calumniate my Genius, ſhall die in Ignorance; but if my Conditions are accepted and made into a Law, I am willing to honour my Patrons by ſubſcribing my ſelf a Brother of Impertinence and Dulneſs.

JASPER QUIBBLE.

PRE-

PREFACE.

AFTER *many Struggles with my old fashion'd Genius, I have comply'd with the reigning Folly of the Age and ventur'd to publish the following Questions, which, I hope, will sufficiently puzzle the Understandings of my Polite Readers---- Nor can I help returning thanks to my Bookseller for all the Fame or Profit I may gain by this Work---- For after spending four Years in translating a famous* Italian *Piece upon* the Mind of Man, *I apply'd to my Bookseller, in hopes to reap the Harvest of my Labour; but so far from finding him fond of my Copy, as I expected, he did not offer me more for it than it cost transcribing, telling me that Discourses of that kind were in-*

 tirely

tirely out of Faſhion; and tho' it might be a Piece of great Value in former Days, the Mind of Man *had taken ſo different a Turn, it wou'd be now ſcarcely underſtood. But, continu'd he, as I have an Opinion of your Parts, I will put you into a Method which will anſwer your Purpoſe much better----- Write a few Sheets of Conundrums, and puzzle, not inſtruct, your Readers, if you have a turn that Way, I ſhan't think any Price too high for your Copy.----- Wanting Money (as Poets generally do) I promis'd to try my Talent, upon his giving me his Honour not to let the World know what I was about---- But I ſoon found he had been blabing; for next Morning a young ſpruce Fellow, with a Cockade in his Hat, came to my Lodging, and after a few Compliments told me, he heard I was writing ſome Conundrums for a certain Bookſeller, but that if I wou'd let him have 'em in Manuſcript, he wou'd give me more than any Trader cou'd afford,*

telling

telling me, that as he was often oblig'd to go into polite Company, he wou'd gladly be furniſh'd with ſomething new and ſprightly to entertain 'em, and theſe Sort of Things he knew would hit their Taſte---- I can't ſay but his Propoſal was much greater than my Bookſeller's; but I being a Patriot Wit could not part with any thing to an Individual that might be of Service to my Country. I have had many Offers from the Ladies who wanted to ſweeten their Tea at my Expence, but I have withſtood all Temptations, for the great Satisfaction of ſerving the Publick.

WIT A-LA-MODE.

1

WHY is a Periwig-maker like a Bird-catcher?

2

Why is boil'd Beef like a Taylor?

3

Why is a *Jew*'s Harp like a good Dinner?

4

Why is there a bad Audience at the Play-houſe when the Pit is full?

5

Why is a Candle like a Tobacconiſt?

6

Why is a fortify'd Town like a Pudding?

7

Why is a fortunate Man like a Straw in the Water?

8

Why is a Baker like a certain great Lawyer?

9

Why is a Man that falls in the Kennel approv'd of?

10

Why is an Organ an Enemy to Religion?

11

Why are Sharpers like Sparrows?

12

Why is a Prentice like a Concave-glaſs?

13

Which is the politeſt Church in Town?

14

Why is a Beau the Reverſe of a Miſer?

15

Why is a young Fellow who is encou-rag'd in Vice by another, like the Ice upon a Twelfth-Cake?

16

What Tradeſman ſhou'd a Landlord chooſe for his Houſe, who does not like to change often his Tenants?

17

Why does a Tallow-chandler live better than another Man?

18

Why is a Pamphlet like a Whore?

19

Why is Poetry like the Piles?

20

Why is a Play-houſe like the Climate of *England*?

21

Why is a Fidler like an *African*?

22

Why was Paradiſe like a Cucumber?

23

Why is Paper like a Beggar?

24

Why is a Lookinglaſs very Complaiſant?

25

Why is a News-paper like a lame Man?

26

Why is a Play-bill like a Coward?

27

Why is a Stair-caſe like a Back-biter?

28

An old Man and Woman who had been married upwards of fifty Years, the Husband beat his Wife, and being ask'd his Reaſon for ſo doing, what do you think was his Anſwer?

29

Why is a *modern Machine* like a Maſtive-dog?

30

Why is a Man who keeps a Girl, like a loſt Child?

31

Why is a young Woman with Child like an old Lady of Fourſcore?

32

Why is a *Camera obſcura* like underhand Dealings?

33

Why is a high Wind like a dumb Man in Diſtreſs?

34

Why is a Sand-box like a Biſhop?

35

Why is a Bankrupt like a Horſe?

36

Why does a Debtor never walk in foul Weather?

37

Why is a Shoe-maker more charitable than another Man?

38

Why is a Man who is fond of his Relations like Mr. Q—*n*?

39

39

Why is a Man who keeps a Flatterer like a Beau undreſs'd?

40

Why is a married Woman like a Church?

41

Why is a modern fine Lady like a little Boy?

42

Why is a Picture like a fine Woman?

43

Why is a Slaughter-man like the Eaves of a Houſe?

44

Why is a Cunning-man like a Shoe-maker?

45

Why is a Fiddle-maker like an Apothecary?

46

Why is a drunken Man like Skittles?

47

Why is a Candle like an Atheiſt?

48

When is a Woman in haſte to curl her Hair?

49

Why is a married Woman like a Bear in the Street?

50

Why is a Sedan like the World?

51

What Horſe is the heavieſt?

52

Which is the principal Part of a Horſe?

53

53

Why ſhou'd you not wonder to ſee a ſilver Button above Ground?

54

Why are Letters like Sheep?

55

Why is a Corps like a Man with a Cold?

56

What Colour ſhould Beat-root be of?

57

Why is a Fidler like a Man in amaze?

58

Why is there better acting at *Bartholomew*-Fair than at the Theatres?

59

Why is a Watchmaker like a Gard'ner?

60

60

Why is a good Bed-fellow like a Watchman?

61

Why is a Courtier like Soop?

62

Why is a good Speech like a Penthouſe?

63

Why is a Marſhing-tub like the hundredth Pſalm?

64

Why is a barren Woman like a healthy Child?

65

Why is a Thief like a Knocker?

66

Why is a Sword-belt like a Cow upon a Common?

67

67

Why is a Man juſt Knighted like a Nutmeg?

68

Why are Lamps like the *Thames*?

69

Why is a Pen like a Beau?

70

Why is the Play-houſe like a Punch-bowl?

71

Why is a Cook like a Man after a Misfortune?

72

Why is a Bedſtead like a Wine-vault?

73

Why is a Bible in a gay Family like a Miſer's Table?

74

74

Why are a Woman's Breaſts like a Ship upon the Stocks?

75

Why is a Botcher like a Horſe?

76

Why was *Cain*'s Murder like the main Strength of his Leg?

77

Why is a Smith like a Ferry-man?

78

Why is a Garter like the Gates of a Warehouſe?

79

Why is the *Thames* like a Pudding?

80

Why is a Holly-buſh like a Corps?

81

Why is an Apron like Peas?

82

Why is a Tradeſman who has left off Buſineſs like a Houſe?

83

Why is every Parſon a diſmal Figure?

84

Why is a Friend at Court like a Nurſe?

85

Why are Park-keepers like Free-maſons?

86

Why is a Man and his Wife like Bread and Butter?

87

Why is a Ship in a Storm like a Nail?

88

Why is a Buttock of Beef like a Traitor?

89

Why is an eaſy Chair like a crooked Man?

90

Why is an Apple like a good Song?

91

Why is an honeſt, virtucus Man like a Watch?

92

Why is an Eye-lid like the Wadding to a Gun?

93

Why is a Man who reads here and there a bit of the Hiſtory of the World like one going into St. *James*'s Palace?

94

94

Why is an old Debauchee like a Young Fellow who buys a Commiſſion?

95

Why is a bad Gimlet like a Propheſier of ill Events?

96

Why is a falſe Oath like a Trial in the *Old-Baily*?

97

Why is a Horſe that is conſtantly rid, though never fed, never ſtarv'd?

98

Why is the Hair in a Periwig like *B---gh--n*?

99

Why is a ſleepy Servant like a Warming-pan?

100

Why is a rich Farmer like a Man with bad Teeth?

101

Why is a Gard'ner's Cart like a Whore's Coach?

102

Why is a Priſoner like an Ale-houſe Pot?

103

Why is a Coward like a Trumpet?

104

Why do you think a Juſtice of Peace is look'd upon with Contempt?

105

Why is an Ale-houſe the beſt Comfort for a diſappointed Man?

106

When is a Man ſure to have his own Way?

107

Why is a Man that treads upon my Toe liable to an Action of *Trover*?

108

Why is *Lassell*'s Voyage like a kind Brother?

109

Why is an honest Friend like Orange-chips?

110

Why does the Beadle never run in Debt?

111

Why is an Officer in *Flanders* more diligent than he is in *London*?

112

Why is Mrs. *Woffington* like Eyes?

113

Why are Perch like fine Ladies?

114

Why is a Map a proper Vehicle to carry Hay?

115

115

Why is a Pocket-book like a Prentice to a Muſician?

116

Why is a Smith a dangerous Companion?

117

Why are Coals like poor labouring Men?

118

Why is a Quilter like a good Lawyer?

119

Why is a Man who is fond of his Wife *Margery* like a Hat in a Club?

120

Why is a Pick-pocket like a Bridegroom?

121

Why is *Orpheus* always in bad Company?

122

Why is a Prentice like a Coach?

123

123

Why has the Maſter of *Vaux-Hall* diſpos'd of what is not his own?

124

Why is the *Craftsman* like a Man of fourſcore?

125

Why is a Man in an Ale-houſe like the Prop to a Houſe?

126

Why is a Bonfire like the Queen of *Hungary*'s Army?

127

Why is a pelted Actor like a Felon at the *Old-Baily*?

128

Why is *Harrow the Hill* like a good Artiſt?

129

Why is Earthen-ware like the beſt Edition of the *Claſſicks*?

130

Why is Mr. *Garrick* like an old Maid?

131

Why is Mr. *Pope* like an *Engliſhman*?

132

Why is an Apple-dumpling like a Woman with Child?

133

Why is a Fiddle like a Man who gives Money to make up a Quarrel?

134

Why is a good Pun like a good Cat?

F I N I S.

ADVERTISEMENT.

ON *Tueſday* next, *April* the 9th. will be publiſh'd, *You are all as wiſe as my ſelf*: Being Anſwers to the above Queſtions.